

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FBOE-00 A-01 SSO-00 /029 W
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O R 092119Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6398

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1751

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652 NA

TAGS AMGT, AFSP ABLD

SUBJ OFFICE SPACE MONTREAL

SUMMARY: URGENT NEED TO RELOCATE CONSULAR OFFICES,
MONTREAL, FROM GO PROPERTY TO LEASED SPACE. END SUMMARY.

1. MOST URGENT RECOMMENDATION OF RECENT INSPECTION
TEAM WAS THAT CONSULATE GENERAL MONTREAL BE MOVED FROM
ITS INADEQUATE AND UNSUITABLE PRESENT QUARTERS. I
CANNOT OVERSTATE MY AGREEMENT WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION,
WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN MADE BY CONGEN ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND MOST RECENTLY
CONCURRED IN BY ME IN MONTREAL'S A-30 OF FEBRUARY 14,
1975.

2. CONSULAR WORKLOADS CANNOT BE HANDLED IN PRESENT
SPACE. CROWDS LINE STREET IN FRONT OF BUILDING
DAILY WAITING TO GET IN. THIS NOT ONLY UNSIGHTLY
BUT IS A SECURITY THREAT IN THAT THERE IS NO WAY
TO SCREEN PEOPLE UNTIL THEY ARE WITHIN SIGHT OF
GUARDS. I CONSIDER MONTREAL BUILDINGS TO BE
PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE AS TERRORIST TARGETS.

3. FBO HAS HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION BUILDING OF A
NEW OFFICE STRUCTURE FOR MANY YEARS. THEIR PLAN IS
TO TEAR DOWN PRESENT STRUCTURE AND BUILD ON SAME SITE
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"SOMEDAY." THIS IS UNREALISTIC AS PROPERTY IS WITHIN

A ZONE PROTECTED BY QUEBEC LAW AND CANNOT BE DESTROYED OR EVEN ALTERED WITHOUT PROCESS AND APPROVAL OF QUEBEC MINISTRY OF CULTURE. PROPERTY SHOULD BE SOLD AND PROBLEM OF DESTRUCTION OR MODIFICATION SHOULD BE LEFT TO NEW OWNERS. CITIZEN CONCERN IN MONTREAL WITH PRESERVATION OF RICKETY OLD BUILDINGS LIKE OURS IS EXTREME. THERE IS IMPORTANT PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT.

4. MOST IMPORTANT, QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO WITH PRESENT QUARTERS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED DELAY FURTHER THE MOVE OF CONGEN INTO SUITABLE SPACE. THOUGH LEASED SPACE AVAILABLE NOW, AS OLYMPICS DRAW NEARER, SUITABLE SPACE WILL BECOME LESS AND LESS AVAILABLE AND IF AUTHORITY SEEK LEASE NOT GIVEN SOONEST, QUESTION COULD BECOME MOOT. NEW SPACE WOULD ACCOMMODATE ALL AGENCIES NOW HOUSED IN MCGREGOR STREET PROPERTIES.

5. I KNOW MANY OTHER ITEMS ON YOUR PLATE, BUT AS INSPECTORS REALIZED, THIS MATTER IS VERY BAD FOR US. WE NEED AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE LONG TERM LEASE NOW REPEAT NOW. PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN.

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